Domestic Violence Prevention Definition

Domestic violence prevention is defined as an active process that promotes healthy and harmonious relationships and precludes all forms of family violence including: intimate partner, elder, and child abuse. Domestic violence includes the entire continuum of violent acts including verbal, emotional, psychological, emotional and physical abuse.

Purpose

The purpose of the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy is to support and expand the Board's current Prevention Policy (A114) and advance the leadership role to identify, facilitate and prioritize domestic violence prevention initiatives and services. This countywide policy is intended to improve the practices of County agencies relative to domestic violence prevention by implementing procedures and protocols that are inclusive and collaborative among and between County departments, public and private agencies and community based organizations.

Background

Domestic Violence, the silent epidemic, effects thousands of San Diego County residents each year. In 1995, law enforcement agencies responded to over 25,000 calls for domestic violence. In each of these cases, and the thousands of unreported cases, the cooperative and nurturing relationship between individuals has broken down. It is this breakdown in family and societal norms that makes a policy on domestic violence essential.

In order to effectively prevent domestic violence, the entire community must promote community and family well-being, be proactive in identifying and preventing domestic violence and establish a zero tolerance posture as it relates to acts of violence. Given San Diego's wealth of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, this domestic violence policy attempts to reflect the entire population of the County and their unique needs.

Guiding Principles

The following guidelines underline the Board's Policy:

* Inclusive of all community members
* Community and resident driven
* Innovative and sensitive to community needs
* Promote community and family well-being

*Developing domestic violence prevention strategies based on existing community resources
* Targets all segments and levels of society including children and adults

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1.Domestic Violence is unacceptable in our communities.

2.The County shall promote primary violence prevention that starts as soon as possible within the family setting with or without children present, and in schools beginning with kindergartners.

3.The County shall develop a plan to include County Departments strengthening community based intervention activities focused on preventing violence.

4.Needs associated with alcohol, drugs and mental health be incorporated into cross training for professionals, an assessment of the impact of these factors in domestic violence cases and incorporating alcohol, drugs and mental health assessment standards into contracts and services that support domestic violence, mental health services, and alcohol and drug services efforts.

5.The County shall enhance and expand training in domestic violence that includes early recognition, prevention and intervention strategies.

6.The County shall promote the development of data and information systems to track the incidence of domestic violence and to gain a better understanding of domestic violence in San Diego County.

7.The County shall modify funding and contracting procedures to encourage and promote flexibility and collaborative initiatives in designing and adopting funding mechanisms for domestic violence prevention and intervention.

Sunset Date: This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-02.

Board Action:
12-17-96 (1)

CAO Reference
1. Chief Administrative Office